FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MAY 1984

### Gulf Shipping Crisis

The GCC Ministerial Council, in a statement carried by SPA, denounced Iranian air attacks against Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers. According to the statement, the Council decided to submit the matter to an emergency meeting of the Arab League and to the UN Security Council. Meanwhile, the Arab League secretary general condemned the Iranian attacks and once again called on Iran to come to the negotiating table, KUNA reported.

In a related development, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran delivered a note from the Kuwaiti Government to Iran protesting the attacks on Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf, while a Kuwaiti official summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires and informed him of the Kuwait's "displeasure" over the attacks, the agency disclosed.

Reacting to the recent developments, an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Tehran radio asserted that the war "imposed" by Iraq is causing a "total" lack of security in the Gulf region. The statement warned that lack of security for Iran's oil routes "shall be tantamount to insecurity for all the oil routes in the Persian Gulf."

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that Iran would not "sit and watch" the closure of its Gulf oil routes, IRNA reported. Iran must end the war with Iraq as soon as possible with a "large-scale and far-reaching operation," he added.

Meanwhile, Tehran radio charged that Iraq is carrying out its air raids with "direct U.S. support" and information supplied by AWACS aircraft. Moreover, "an Arab diplomat" in London cited by the radio alleged that Iraqi aircraft carried out the attack on the Saudi tanker using information supplied by the AWACS aircraft.

Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said Iran would not allow Iraq to continue striking oil tankers carrying Iranian oil, claiming that Iran had the capability to "confront them," according to IRNA.

A military spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi fighters carried out a new air strike against two "large naval targets" south of Khark Island, scoring "direct, effective hits." The spokesman claimed the air strikes confirmed Iraq's ability to maintain the "siege" of Khark and the other Iranian ports in the Gulf.

### Iran

Voting began in Tehran and 92 other constituencies in the second part of the Majlis elections, Tehran radio announced.

### Libya

*Anti-Libyan Terrorists* — Some 150 Palestinians are being trained in Jordan for terrorist actions against Libyans, Libyan interests, and Libyan people's bureaus in Arab and European capitals, JANA alleged, citing "confirmed information."

*UK, Sudan Threatened* — Libya "might" retaliate against Britain and Sudan for their part in the attack in Tripoli, the head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Rome warned, according to ANSA. AFP quoted him as saying that Libya has the right to "neutralize" the anti-Libyan terrorist camps in Sudan.

### Tunisia-Libya Relations

The Political Bureau of the Socialist Destourian Party discussed measures to counter "provocations" on the Libyan-Tunisian border, Tunis radio announced. According to "informed sources" cited by AFP, there have been exchanges of fire and a big troop buildup by both countries. The sources also claimed that Libya had carried out incursions into Tunisia.

### Lebanon

*'Ayn al-Hulwah Clash* — A Palestinian woman was killed and a number of people were wounded by Israeli forces who opened fire on demonstrators in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp protesting a "massacre" of camp inhabitants by Israeli soldiers, Beirut radio alleged. The commander of the Israeli forces in the area denied the reports, claiming that a woman who died in the camp had been killed in "internal clashes," according to AFP. UN observers cited by Jerusalem radio denied that IDF soldiers were involved in the incident.

*Relations With Iran* — "Informed diplomatic sources" reported that preparations are under way for a resumption of relations between Lebanon and Iran, KUNA disclosed. The sources indicated that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry recalled the head of the mission representing Lebanese interests in Iran for consultations on the future of relations.

*Israeli Withdrawal* — Israel will not withdraw from southern Lebanon in the "near future," according to Israel's coordinator of activities in Lebanon Uri Lubrani as reported by Jerusalem radio. Lubrani remarked that Israel would continue to abide by the Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

### PLO Affairs

A Fatah Central Committee delegation arrived in Moscow on a visit to the USSR, INA announced. The delegation is led by Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, the agency added.

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## AFP: MIG's Bomb Mujahidin Along Pakistan Border

*BK171628 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 17 May 84*

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Excerpts] Landi Kotal, Khyber Pass, May 17 (AFP) — Soviet bombers pounded Afghan rebel positions along the Afghan-Pakistani border near here for several hours today before the arrival of U.S. Vice-President George Bush amid heavy security. The bombing by two Soviet MIG's, "unusual" according to the Pakistani Army, was concentrated on the village of Lal Purah, three kms (two miles) as the crow flies from the Michni observation post which Mr. Bush visted with Pakistani leader General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The 10,000 inhabitants of Landi Kotal, which lies in the heart of Pakistan's fierce western frontier where traditionally men never go out without their rifles, had been ordered to stay indoors for security reasons, the town's administrator said. In the last three years the town has become a central pivot of international heroin trafficking.

### Helicopter Gunships Involved

*BK171717 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, five [as heard] aircraft of Afghanistan — two MIG's and two helicopter gunships — raided a village, Lal Purah, about 5 miles inside Afghan territory a few hours before the U.S. vice president visited the Michni post near the Pakistan-Afghan border today.

## Tehran Reports Mujahidin Operations, Soviet Shelling

*GF172000 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] During fierce clashes with the Soviet occupationist forces and the forces of the ruling regime of Afghanistan in (Miruz) Province, Afghan mujahidin killed a number of these forces and inflicted grave losses on them. Among those who were killed was a high-ranking officer who was the political assistant of the 4th Battalion of the border brigades. Last week the Soviet occupationist forces' warplanes shelled the villages near the main road which links (Ziranj) to Qandahar, which caused the destruction of various houses and the death and wounding of many innocent Muslims. Soviet advisers are present at the majority of courts in Afghanistan to strictly supervise the verdicts issued by the judges.

### Government Forces Fill Hospitals

*GF120800 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 May 84*

[Text] Travelers from Afghanistan who arrived in the Indian capital, New Delhi, said that the military hospitals in Kabul are full of wounded troops from the Soviet occupation forces and the forces of the Karmal regime. They suffered heavy losses of life and equipment during the battles which they have been fighting against the Afghan revolutionaries in the Panjsher valley. The travelers from Afghanistan said that they saw many troops from the Soviet occupation forces and the Karmal regime arriving at one of the non-government hospitals in Kabul because government hospitals were full of wounded from the recent fighting in the Panjsher valley.

Battles continue in the Panjsher valley between the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries and the Soviet occupation forces and Karmal regime forces.

### Victories in Panjsher Valley

*GF161336 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 May 84*

[Text] The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed and wounded over 500 invading Soviet troops and Afghan Government troops in battles in the Panjsher valley during the past 10 days. Reports indicate that the considerable casualties inflicted on the Soviet invaders have forced gravediggers in Kabul to work day and night and that this has caused more problems, especially with regard to the availability of blood for the regime ruling in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have foiled many attempts by the Soviet invasion troops and the troops of the regime ruling in Afghanistan to occupy the Panjsher valley. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries attacked a patrol belonging to the Soviet invasion troops in Farah Province and set fire to two of its tanks. Reports also indicate that the Soviet invading roops opened fire on passengers in a bus in the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing 6 persons and wounding 12 others. The reports added that this crime comes in retaliation for the deaths of seven Soviet soldiers in a recent attack against them by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries recently.

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries carried out a military operation against the troops of the Soviet occupation and the regime imposed on Afghanistan in Ghazni Province in central Afghanistan, killing dozens of soldiers and capturing others. In this operation, which began on 29 April and continued until 6 May, the Muslim revolutionaries burned five tanks and three vehicles belonging to the occupants and captured large quantities of ammunition.

## Clergy Send Letter to Islamic Conference

*LD130723 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0435 GMT 13 May 84*

[Text] Kabul, May 12, BAKHTAR — Following is an open letter of the High Council of the Clergy and Spirituals and the Islamic Affairs Department of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan addressed to the Islamic Conference:

The April Revolution which triumphed with the will of the people for the prosperity and welfare of millions of the working Muslems of our country put an end to the reign of the oppressors, tyrants, usurers, speculators and all those who had accumulated capital by the illegitimate means. The revolution inflicted shattering blows to the interests of U.S. imperialism, the reaction of the

region and Arab reaction and the Chinese hegemonism in our country.

The fundamental principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan were approved as a guarantor for the consolidation of revolutionary legality in the country and the work was begun for the creation of a just and blossoming society in our ancient and heroic homeland. Article 5 of the Fundamental Principles of the DRA provides that the sacred religion of Islam is to be revered, observed and preserved, and the freedom for the performance of religious rites is guaranteed for all Muslims in the country. The guarantee of the freedom of Muslim religious rites by the Fundamental Principles of the DRA which is the provisional constitution of the country, the proclamation of the equality of rights of the nationalities and tribes, assistance to mosques, sacred places, scholars and clergymen, the emancipation of the working people from the clutches of a handful of parasites and oppressors caused the sacred religion of Islam to become ever more abiding, firmer and stronger in Afghanistan.

On the basis of the support given by the state of the DRA aimed at strengthening the sacred religion of Islam which was not an accidental matter but was totally based on the law-governed principles of the national democratic April Revolution, millions of afghanis have been spent for the construction and repair of mosques, sacred places, and the provision of facilities for the performance of religious rites of the working people. The state of the DRA has spent 184 million afghanis in the past three years for the construction and repair of mosques and takya khanas. Only in the 1 period (ended March 19, 1984) it has assisted in the amount of 272 million afghanis pilgrims going to the house of God.

The state pays salaries for the imams of the mosques. The state also bears the total cost of the institutions of Islamic thought. The High Council of the Clergy and Spirituals and the Islamic Affairs Department have been established. Judgment in judicial courts is passed on the basis of Islamic principles and in compliance with the contemporary demands. Had there not been the conspiracies of the internal counterrevolutionary elements, these avowed enemies of Muslims, and their international supporters, headed by U.S. imperialism, this great devil, programmes of the DRA would have been further realised in this sphere.

The counterrevolution of the sold-out and trained American, Chinese and Egyptian lackeys have so far inflicted damages worth over 35 million dollars to the public utilities of the country. The counterrevolutionaries hve arsoned tens of mosques, have disdained the sacred places and have martyred 210 reputed and well-known scholars and clergymen. Among the martyred were Mawlawi Nasrullah Sardeyi, Mawlawi Assadullah, Nasrat Ankhoi Faryasi, Sheykh Mohammad Amin Sadre, Sheykh Sayed Kamal Abasi, Sheykh Ali Husain Nattaq, Mawlawi Abdul Aziz Habibi, Sagheri Mudderres, Abdul Ghaffar Akhund Zada, Mawlawi Abdul Hakim Jauzjani, Da Mullah Qowat, Mawlawi Rahmatullah Uruzgani (a warrior of the independence wars of Afghanistan), Mawlawi Karim Kandahari, Qari Shukrullah, Qarusmohammad Ibrahim, and tens of others who were martyred by American arms.

Right now, hundreds of prominent ulema and clergymen of the country who have been organized in the Islamic Affairs Department and the High Council of the Clergy and Spirituals of the DRA, representing millions of Muslims of the country, loudly and frankly declare that Islam is not a religion of fratricide, crimes, and aggression. These types of notorious actions can be sought in the "American Islam" of Mr Reagan. The main purpose of the "American Islam" is confrontation with Islam under the false cover of defence of Islam, killing of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims, fanning up devastating wars between Iran and Iraq, occupation of Jerusalem, setting on fire the first holy place of Muslims, threatening the Arab Muslim peoples, assassination, fear, intimidation, racial discrimination, and plundering of the property of peoples, nations, and countries.

The ulema and clergymen of the DRA during their first and second general conferences in 1980 and 1984 vehemently condemned the notorious and anti-Islamic actions of mercenaries' bands, counterrevolutionaries and their international masters and expressed their all-sided support for the April Revolution. The recently concluded general conference of ulema and clergymen of the DRA adopted important documents which play a significant role in finding a clear way for honest Muslims and rejecting American Islam, consolidation of friendship and brotherhood and understanding with the peoples of other Islamic countries.

The High Council of the Clergy and Spirituals and the Islamic Affairs Department of the DRA, on behalf of millions of Muslim compatriots and according to this verse of Holy Koran (they believe in God and resurrection day, order for good works and refrain from bad) declare to all Muslims of the world that the DRA fully respects and all-sidedly supports the religion of Islam, but the captured American-make weapons from counterrevolutionaries and the present tense situation in Islamic countries and other other parts of the world are a testimony to the fact that the religion of Islam and Muslims are practically faced with a serious threat and danger created by U.S. imperialism. We, on behalf of all true Muslims of the DRA, demand from you, members of the conference of Islamic countries, that you should not ignore the facts of life and the interests of our Muslim people. We hope that the suspicions created by the anti-Islamic propaganda of America would be removed and you would spare no efforts towards making the realities of Afghanistan understandable.

We have the right not to allow anyone to represent us in the Islamic Conference. We are convinced that the support for the Afghan counterrevolutionaries by some reactionary regimes of the region and a number of Arab countries is clearly defence of American Islam and not of real Islam.

In the moments when Muslims of our country struggle for the defence of the aspirations of the revolution and protecting the legitimate rights of Muslim Palestinian and Lebanese people and for the defence of justice, peace and well-being, creating obstacles in the way of this sacred path under the name of defence of Islam clearly means defence of American imperialism, Israeli Zionism, and is completely contrary to the aspirations of true Islam.

### U.S. Urged Not To Withdraw From UNESCO

*BK181004 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 May 84*

[Text] India has urged the United States not to quit UNESCO but to try to strengthen the UN body through cooperation and consultations. Addressing the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris, India's representative on the Board, Mr T.N. Kaul, said: Though member states have the sovereign right to withdraw from the organization, at the same time it is their duty to reconcile to changing demands. Several nations also appealed to the United States to reconsider its decision. France and Britain proposed setting up a task force to examine and reform the 161-nation organization in an effort to make Washington change its decision.

### Special Task Force Units Set Up in Punjab

*BK180318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 84*

[Text] In Punjub, a number of special task force units of security forces have been set up in eight districts to restore confidence among the people. Stating this in Amritsar, the adviser to the Punjab governor, Mr Surendranath, said the units will carry out operations in sensitive areas. Meanwhile, some unidentified miscreants attacked and injured the caretaker of a religious place with blunt weapons near Fatehgarh Churian in Amritsar District early this morning. In another incident, some armed miscreants looted the passengers of a bus at a gunpoint near Bhogpur in Jullundur District last night. The bus was on its way from Jammu to Jullundur.

The working group of the All India Sampradayikta Virodhi [anticommunalism] Committee urged the government to put down terrorism in Punjab with a firm hand. The group, at a meeting in New Delhi, expressed its grief over the murder of the noted journalist, Mr Ramesh Chandra, and Giani Pratap Singh, former Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] chief.

### Sikh Priest Killed by Terrorists in Patiala

*BK180212 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 18 May 84*

[Mark Tully report in "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] In the continuing violence in the Indian state of Punjab, another Sikh priest has been killed apparently by Sikh terrorists. Our Delhi correspondent Mark Tully says the incident seems to be part of an attempt to prevent the Sikh clergy from taking measures against the extremist leader, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

[Begin Tully recording] The Sindhian priest in charge of a Sikh temple near the town of Patiala was shot dead by three men late at night. He was the third Sikh priest to be shot in the last week. One of them was the former holder of the highest office in the Sikh ecclesiastical hierarchy. Sikh terrorists have also set on fire the memorial to (?Sardar Singh), who held that office between 1919 and 1921. He is the very controversial figure in Sikh history. After the massacre of Indians in the Jalianwalabagh Garden, the British general responsible was received in the Golden Temple by (?Sardar Singh). He also issued a religious edict excommunicating members of the Sikh movement fighting for independence from the British. A note addressed to (?Sardar Singh's) family was found at the memorial after it had been set on fire. The note said traitors of the Sikh community would not be spared. It was signed by the Dasmesh Khalsa or community of the 10th Sikh guru. The Dasmesh regiment has been using the name used by supporters of the extremist leader, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, in claiming responsibility for terrorist attack. The killing of the Sikh clergy and burning of (?Sardar Singh's) memorial appear to be a deliberate attempt by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale to assert his independence from the Sikh clergy and to remind Sikhs that priests too can err. [end recording].

### Curfew Imposed in Thane District After Clashes

*BK180746 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 May 84*

[Text] In Maharashtra, police had to resort to firing this morning at Bhiwandi in Thane District to disperse the two rival groups indulging in violent clashes, stone throwing, and arson. An official spokesman said that four dead bodies have been recovered from the affected areas. Earlier today, indefinite curfew was imposed in the Bhiwandi town following group clashes. Despite curfew, miscreants gathered in groups at several places. Adequate police force has been rushed there and patrolling has been intensified.

### People's Liberation Army Members Arrested in Manipur

*BK180320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 84*

[Text] In Manipur, four members of the outlawed People's Liberation Army [PLA] have been apprehended from different parts of Imphal. The police raided a house and arrested them. In another incident, one of the two PLA members was apprehended when they were attempting to loot a petrol pump.

### Businessmen Discuss Growth of Trade With PRC

*OW172021 Hong Kong AFP in English 2008 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] New Delhi, May 17 (AFP) — An Indian business delegation said today after a recent visit to China that trade between the countries could be increased by a factor of six over the next three years, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. A delegation from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) said it had suggested to the Chinese that the FICCI and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) together work out a trade plan jointly to promote bilateral trade, PTI said. The Indian side felt the two-way trade turnover could be stepped up from the present level of 145 million dollars to one billion dollars within the next three years, it said. PTI quoted the delegation that both sides agreed on the potential for India to export iron ore and chemicals to China on a long-term basis.

## Further Reports on Vice President Bush's Visit

### Meeting With Afghan Refugees

*BK171107 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 May 84*

[Excerpts] The American vice president, Mr George Bush, has said the cause of the Afghan people is right and just, and his country wants to see a settlement of the problem as soon as possible. He was replying to an address of welcome presented to him on his visit to a tented village of Afghan refugees at Nasirbagh near Peshawar this morning.

Mr Bush said the United States does not want the sufferings of Afghan people to be prolonged. The critical issue, he said, is the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. He knew that the resistance of the Afghan people will continue until the Soviet Union realizes that they cannot subjugate Afghanistan. He said the Afghan people have shown great courage and fortitude in their sufferings and freedom struggle. He admired the spirit of sacrifice shown by Pakistanis for providing shelter and help to the 3 million Afghan refugees. Mr George Bush announced that he had brought with him a check of $14 million from his countrymen for the people of Afghanistan. A cargo plane has also arrived with $1 million worth of medical supplies.

Addressing the Afghan refugees, the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, reiterated that the people of Afghanistan are not alone. Pakistan was with them, and the entire freedom-loving world is with them. The president said it is his firm conviction that the Soviet troops will one day leave Afghanistan, (?which will be) an independent, sovereign, and Islamic country. He said the people of Pakistan will continue to look after the Afghan refugees on their soil for Islamic brotherhood and humanitarian considerations.

Mr George Bush, accompanied by the president and the Pakistan foreign minister, has now arrived in Lahore.

### News Conference in Lahore

*BK181110 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 May 84*

[Text] The U.S. vice president, Mr George Bush, has said his country and Pakistan want a just solution of the Afghanistan problem, and the United States would support any effort in this regard. Addressing a news conference in Lahore today, he emphasized that the world must never close its eyes that the Afghan people were courageously fighting alone against overwhelming odds for their independence. His country's interest in Pakistan would not cease after the settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Relations between Pakistan and his country, Mr George Buth declared, transcend Soviet presence in Afghanistan. His government would continue to provide all the necessary assistance for the development of Pakistan. The friendship between them was very strong and genuine, and they share many common values and objectives.

His valuable talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and other officials have certainly improved his understanding on Pakistan and some of its major problems. The U.S. vice president said the United Stated admires Pakistan's constructive role in Nonaligned Movement and Islamic Conference Organization and strongly supports its current efforts to improve its relations with India. Mr George Bush said the United States also welcomes President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's plan to bring about the return of more representative government in Pakistan. Elaborating this point, he drew the attention of a questioner to the holding of local bodies' elections [in] Pakistan. He said the 56-73 percent turnout of voters in these elections showed a wonderful participation of the people in the affairs of the country. Such a heavy turn-out of voters as compared to the United States standard was very high. As to the type of democracy and mode of elections, he said it was a matter to be decided by all countries themselves.

In reply to a question about the hue and cry made in India about Pakistan's acquisition of arms from the United States, he said during his recent visit to India he was able to allay some concern about it.

In reply to another question whether his country would give more arms to Pakistan in view of the increased supply of sophisticated arms by the Soviet Union to India, he said they were not interested in an arms race anywhere. As for Pakistan, they were looking at its overall security interest, particularly, due to the difficulties created by the Afghanistan problem.

## BANGLADESH

### Tornado, Mud Slide Kill At Least 22

*BK160631 Dhaka BSS in English 0620 GMT 16 May 84*

[Text] Dhaka May 16 (BSS) — At least 22 people were killed in Bangladesh in the last 48 hours in two natural disasters — a tornado in the southeastern districts and a landslide in the northeastern Maulvi Bazar.

The tornado, which raged over several districts at a velocity of about 100 miles per hour yesterday morning, killed 12 people and injured a few hundred others, according to latest reports.

It lasted for about 15 minutes and swept over a vast area of Munshiganj, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, and Chandpur District.

Detailed estimates of the loss from the tornado were still not available, but firsthand reports said that hundreds of thatched houses were blown away and trees were uprooted.

Emergency medical teams and relief materials had been dispatched to the tornado hit areas and measures were underway to gear up relief operations, officials said.

In another incident, in a huge landslide that took place in the hilly tea plantation area of Maulvi Bazar yesterday morning 10 people — mostly labourers — were killed.

The landslide was caused by incessant rains for the last few days, local administration sources said.

### Khaleda Zia Elected Nationalist Party Chairperson

*BK111009 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 May 84*

[Text] Mrs Khaleda Zia has been unanimously elected the chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. This was disclosed in a press release issued by the party last night. Mrs Zia took over as the acting chairperson of the party some time back in view of indifferent health of the former chairperson, Mr Abdus Sattar.

## SRI LANKA

### Jayewardene Cables Reagan on U.S. Couple's Release

*BK171229 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 May 84*

[Excerpt] President Jayewardene has said that the kipnapping of the American couple has been the culmination of a series of murders and other acts of violence committed by terrorists on innocent citizens of Sri Lanka. In a message to the U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, Mr Jayewardene said that the specter of terrorism stalked the international stage, obstructing the peaceful solution of human problems. Mr Jayewardene said he felt that the civilized world should work unitedly to face the menace terrorism presents to the survival of democratic forms of government (?sighted) in the United States and Sri Lanka as well as throughout the world.

The president in his message further pointed out that he was happy to be able to share with Mr Reagan the sense of the relief and joy they all felt at the release of Mr and Mrs Allen.

### EPRLF Details Motivation Behind Kidnapping

*BK171557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front has said that they had kidnapped the American couple to expose what they called the activities of the CIA in Jaffna and also to draw the world's attention to the plight of Tamil prisoners in Sri Lanka jails. It had never been their intention to harm the hostages. They also said that they had readily accepted Mrs Gandhi's appeal with full faith and confidence. The Front appealed to Mrs Gandhi to use her good offices to get the 20 political prisoners released.

Meanwhile, the American couple told newsmen in Colombo today their abductors were very kind during their days of captivity. The Allen couple said that the kidnappers told them that they had nothing against the Sinhalese and are only fighting for human rights.

### State of Emergency Extended Another Month

*BK180855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 May 84*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, emergency has been extended for another month. President Jayewardene ordered the extension just after the release of an American couple who were abducted by terrorists. The state of emergency was first declared on the 18th May last year to deal with violence which broke out after parliamentary local elections.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties in the country have opposed the country-wide extension of the emergency. They urged the government to confine it only to the troubled northern and eastern provinces.

## More on Leaders' Views on Tankers Attacked in Gulf

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani Warns U.S.

*NC181040 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 18 May 84*

[Text] Tehran, May 18 (AFP) — Iran today warned it would wage war throughout the world "on the interests of any country which intervenes in the Gulf."

Parliamentary Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: "If the superpowers and the second-rank powers come into the Gulf, the Iranian nation must prepare itself for a war everywhere in the world." If that happened, "our soldiers will be all those who believe in Islam and the Islamic Republic, and will be ready to make sacrifices," he added.

"We hope one experience is enough for the United States, and that they will not intervene any more in such adventures," he said, referring to the U.S. involvement in Lebanon.

He also implied that Iran had been responsible for attacks this week on one Saudi and two Kuwaiti tankers, as alleged by Kuwait and the United States, saying that "countries in the region have been punished" for the seriousness of the situation created for Iran by Iraqi attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf.

### 'Momentous Development' May Occur

*LD181053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 May 84*

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-rafsanjani, in his Friday prayer sermons in Tehran today, referring to the plot hatched by global arrogance in the Persian Gulf region, emphasized: There is a possibility that an extremely momentous development, the consequences of which cannot be predicted, will take place in the region. Therefore, our nation should pay great heed and prepare itself for a prolonged move and jihad, since with victory in that jihad, Islam would consolidate its greatness throughout the world.

Referring to the rumors of intervention and the presence of the superpowers in the region, the representative of the imam to the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Should the way be opened in the Persian Gulf to the superpowers and everyone of the second-rate powers, our nation should prepare itself for war throughout the world against the interests of every country desirous of intervention in the Persian Gulf.

### Majlis Speaker on Iraqi 'Conscience'

*GF180730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 May 84*

[Excerpts] On the occasion of mid-Sha'ban [eighth month of lunar calendar] and the anniversary of the birth of the 12th effulgent star of the firmament of the imamate and guardianship, the eminent mahdi, may his advent be hastened, special ceremonies were held yesterday afternoon and were attended by Messrs Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, the commander of the Ground Forces, and officials of the three other Armed Forces branches. The country's gratitude and appreciation was expressed to a large number of combatant, selfless, and striving personnel of the various units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, and each one was presented an award by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his speech, the commander of the Ground Forces referred to the situation prevailing on the fronts and expressed the hope that with a decisive blow, final victory will be attained rapidly. Then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, expressed appreciation and gratitude to the combatants of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, saying: This form of appreciation — when we find a special quality in others — is the Islamic way, because Islam does not want us to treat those who work harder and those who strive to a lesser degree in the same manner.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council spoke about the status of the martyr and his reward from God Almighty and then alluded to the conspiracies of world oppression in the aftermath of the Islamic revolution, saying: World oppression imposed this war on us and there is no doubt that we are the oppressed party and we are defending ourselves. World oppression became aware that with a people's revolution, all its calculations were foiled and all its plans thwarted. They then strove to compensate for this defeat by coups d'etat, terrorism, liberalism, and so forth, bu they did not succeed; and they planned this war which has troubled our wronged nation. Referring to the fact that battle on the fronts is for those whose ideals are Islamic — the principle of the Islamic jihad — he mentioned the weak and tottering morale of the Iraqi soldiers, saying: The Iraqi soldier has to answer to his conscience as to why he is participating in the war. He has no answer, but our combatants have faith in defending our rights and in punishing the aggressor who they continue to fight.

### Khamene'i on Saddam's 'Adventurism'

*GF180757 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 May 84*

[Excerpts] President Khamene'i attended another gathering of Qom residents of Chahar Madan-e Qom Street and spoke about the personality of the great savior of mankind, the phenomenon of the appearance of the imam of the ages, the adventurism of the Saddam regime in the Gulf water, and the steps taken by the powers of oppression to protect their interests in Africa and the Third World.

Referring to the latest act of adventurism by Saddam's regime in the Gulf waters, he said: Our enemies initiated this war, but it has blown up in their faces. Today, they have begun their machinations on our maritime borders. Regarding this we have said and once again we declare that it will backfire in their faces. The chief of the Supreme Defense Council stressed: By the grace of God and with the aid of the people, the Islamic Republic of Iran will attain all of its objectives.

Mr Khamene'i then alluded to the record of struggle of the self-sacrificing Qom residents and their consistent resistance against the plots of world oppression and said: Today, the Muslim nation of Iran is participating in a relentless countrywide struggle against global oppression and has thus endangered the interests of superpowers and continues to resist the brutal onslaught of the mercenaries of oppression as well.

The chief of the Supreme Defense Council added: In the early days when the aggressive enemy began its imposed war on us, pessimists continued to make us depressed by mentioning problems, but some persevered staunchly and believed that with hope in God's [mercy] and the assistance of the people, we could continue the war and beat back the enemy. With the passage of time, and by the will of God, the abject and humiliated enemy was forced to suffer defeat, and today the Iranian nation is triumphant and can hold its head high before those who were waiting to see what would become of our revolution.

The president then spoke about the collusion of the United States and the Soviet Union in the suppression of the oppressed Muslim nations in the garb of the instruments of deliverers of humanity, and added: The injunctions of Islam should be fully implemented in society. Islamic thought must be ingrained in people by genuine theologians. People and the divine system need a true clergy and genuine Islamic jurists. This is a subject repeatedly mentioned by the imam of the nation, and you have seen the imam's stance before the jurists of the Council of Guardians.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i referred to the progress of the Islamic revolution during the 5 years of its existence, saying: Today, our people are administering the war arena, religious meetings, and elections, and are participating in all issues pertaining to this system; they should continue to do so.

### Oil Minister: Aggression To Cease

*GF171604 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] Shiraz, May 17, IRNA — Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said the Islamic Republic would not allow Iraq to continue its aggression against oil tankers carrying Iranian oil. He said we will not allow them (Iraqi planes) to continue their aggression and we have all the capabilities to confront them.

Mr Gharazi, who was speaking to workers at a petrochemical plant here Wednesday, also said that the Esfahan oil refinery had increased its average daily output to about 300,000 barrels last week.

The previous figures released on the Esfahan oil refinery in April showed that in 1362 (ended March 20) it had a daily output of between 200,000 bpd to 280,000 bpd. The average production of heating oil, diesel fuel, and gasoline in the country's refineries reached 116 million litres in the same year despite the war, he said.

He said in 1356 (1977-78), during the peak of the former regime's economic productivity, only 56 million litres of such products had been refined in the country. While we increased the output of other refineries in the country (after the halt in the production of the Abadan refinery) we were also able to activate the market for oil sales...firstly to meet domestic needs and also to acquire foreign exchange, Gharazi added.

The oil minister said revenue from oil sales would enable the Islamic Republic to reconstruct its economy and reach self-sufficiency.

### Envoy: AWACS Aiding Iraq

*LD171728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] According to the Baghdad regime's newspapers today, the only way for Iraq to stop attacking oil tankers is for Iran to accept Iraq's terms.

During the past 2 weeks the Iraqi regime has been escalating its attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf; the attacks have been aimed at endangering navigation. The Iraqi regime's air raids against tankers, which are taking place with direct U.S. support and the information supplied by the AWACS, have so far led to heavy losses and damage to several tankers.

On the other hand, the clear and decisive stand taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the joint U.S.-Iraqi regime plots in the Persian Gulf has resulted in intense contradictions on the part of U.S. officials. According to some news agency reports, whereas *THE NEW YORK TIMES* — quoting official White House sources — reported yesterday that the United States is prepared to send its warplanes to its allies in the Persian Gulf, Casper Weinberger, U.S. war secretary, said in Brussels today: The United States sees no reason to redeploy its forces. As for the U.S. fleets in the Persian Gulf, they enjoy a highly satisfactory condition.

In the meantime an Arab diplomat in London who did not wish to be identified told our correspondent: The AWACS are providing all their information directly to the Iraqi Air Force. As for the attack by the Iraqi planes on the Saudi tanker, it took place on the basis of information made available to them by the AWACS.

### Iraq Tanker Attacks Aimed at Foreign Intervention

*GF161044 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 14 May 84*

[Unattributed commentary: "Saddam — The Sole Cause of Insecurity in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Dear listeners: As a result of its fear of the attacks organized by the Islamic army, the doomed Saddam regime, which has assumed a ferocious nature and which has resorted to every conspiracy in order to save itself, has recently moved to attack oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. It believes that this will create insecurity in the Gulf and facilitate intervention in the region by foreign forces. Thus, by broadening the scope of the war, it will be able to find an escape avenue and prolong its existence for a few more days.

During the past 2 weeks, the military units of the Saddam regime attacked two oil tankers belonging to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with missiles at a point 100 kilometers away from Iranian shores. A glance at the nature of the attacks and at the reaction they have caused points to the fact that the decision to launch these attacks was not one taken independently by the Saddam regime. The attacks on two oil tankers belonging to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Persian Gulf were part of a well calculated imperialist conspiracy in which the French Socialist regime and a number of compromising Arab countries were also involved. The objective of these attacks was to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to reach a peace agreement with the Iraqi regime.

The first attack was organized against the vessel *Safina al-'Arab*. Naturally, the propagandists of the Saddam regime remained silent about the incident in orde to first have an opportunity to assess any reaction related to it. Saddam began talking on 1 May. While being interviewed by journalists from Kuwait, he disclosed that the vessel referred to was attacked by Iraq.

A day after the disclosure was made by Saddam, French newspapers quoted him as saying that the French-made Super-Etandard planes were used in the attack on *Safina ai-'Arab* which belongs to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, it was about that time that foreign circles began asking why Saddam had chosen to attack a vessel owned by Saudi Arabia, a regime which provides the greatest financial aid to Saddam.

At the beginning, the officials of the Saudi regime remained silent as well. Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Yamani merely smiled at journalists in Manama, Bahrain, when asked about the incident. However, the question did not end then and there. Another vessel, the *Al-Ahud*, was attacked by the Saddamists last week.

To the surprise of observers, Yamani said about the incident that attacks on Saudi ships were a mere coincidence — in that Iraqi pilots had not been able to establish the identities of the vessels. However, everyone knows that Yamani's remarks are untrue, because the vessels which have been attacked were sailing under the Saudi flag. According to a number of observers, the Saudi regime should have taken a stand against the attacks. But here are the remarks Yamani calmly made to journalists in Bahrain — remarks which have astounded the observers: I recommend that shipowners heed the warnings issued by Saddam Husayn and understand that the ships they charter will not reach Iranian ports and as a result they will suffer material loss and damages.

Yamani's remarks indicate that the question of Saudi Arabia's political and commercial prestige is of secondary importance from the viewpoint of security, and that as far as he is concerned, the most important thing is to generate propaganda for confirming Saddam's views and supporting his initiatives aimed at disrupting security of navigation in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, the official disclosure Saddam made regarding the use of Super-Etendard planes places France on the stage as well. This is due to the fact that during the clamor over the supply of Super-Etendard aircraft to Iraq last year the French regime made their use subject to the approval of France. On the other hand, some reports have said that Iraqi pilots are not capable of flying the Super-Etendard aircraft. It became obvious by the disclosure made by Saddam regarding the use of these aircraft that the French Government was not informed about their deployment.

While referring in his Friday sermons to attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf and to moves aimed at disrupting security in this region, Tehran Friday Imam 'Ali Khamene'i clearly said that Iran will not remain silent in the event such moves are continued. Insecurity in any one of the shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf means insecurity in all navigation lanes in the same region. On the other hand, the imperialist propaganda mouthpieces, which waited for the disclosure of the position taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran, began clamoring once again, distorting the remarks made by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the meantime. In a 60-minute program, Radio Monte Carlo said on Friday night that Iran was threatening its neighbors and intends to disrupt the situation in the Persian Gulf. In a very hastily prepared program, the same radio aired an interview with Sultan Qabus' minister of state for foreign affairs, who had just concluded his talks with President Mitterrand on the situation of the Persian Gulf. It also said that the French president was concerned about the situation in the Persian Gulf region.

All these developments indicate that imperialism has hatched wide-ranging plots against security in the Persian Gulf and the peoples of the region after the heavy blows dealt on the Saddam regime and that what Saddam and his supporters are presently engaged in is part of these plots. The next stages of these plots will be known by the peoples of the region in the future. The truth the people of the region should know is Iran's wish to establish security in the Persian Gulf without the interference of foreigners. In fact, it has safeguarded this security with its own means. Iran will allow none of the pawns of the oppressors to disrupt security in the Persian Gulf.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to restore security with all its might. Those who have kindled the flame of the war and who now believe that they will be able to save themselves by attracting the oppressors to the region through cunning moves are in a confused state. In fact, they are cherishing wrong views. Any move made by the oppressors against the interests of the Muslim peoples of the region will be forcefully crushed. Iran's neighbors in the Persian Gulf must well understand that the aid they have been extending to the Saddam regime will serve no end. The Saddam regime is the most important source of confusion and insecurity in the region. Therefore, if they think about their future, they must adopt a stand which will be in harmony with the interests of the Muslim peoples of the region. Let them not link their fate with that of Saddam anymore, for Saddam must be destroyed.

## Further Reports on Second Phase of Majlis Elections

### Voting Begins 17 May

*GF170910 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 84*

[Excerpt] The second phase of elections to the second term of the Majlis began at 0700 today in Tehran and 92 other constituencies

throughout the country. Voting will continue for 10 hours. Elections for the 12 constituencies whose election results have been nullified by the Council of Guardians will be held during the mid-term elections and after the opening of the second term of the Majlis. The constituencies whose elections were nullified are: Shiraz, Amol, Behshahr, Khomeynishahr, Nur, Darab, Jiroft, Esfahan, Kohdasht, Faridan, Shahryar, and Qa'emshahr.

It should be remembered that the representatives of religious minorities were elected in the first round of elections, and non-Muslim compatriots will not have to participate in this phase of elections. In addition, each individual who cast a vote in the first phase should vote in the same constituency as before.

As for the Council of Experts elections which were held along with the elections to the second term of the Majlis in seven provinces of the country, only East Azarbaijan will be holding a second round. The people of this province in addition to voting for Majlis representatives will elect six members to the Council.

### Montazeri, Other Ayatollahs Vote

*LD171318 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text]Qom, May 17, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri cast his voted in the moving poll No 155 here Saturday morning for the second phase of the Majlis elections and hoped that Majlis deputies could fully undertake the responsibility delegated to them. He called on the Majlis deputies to approve bills which are according to Islam and in the interest of the Islamic Republic and Iranian people.

In another development, Prosecutor General of the country Ayatollah Yussef Sane'i went to the same moving poll and cast his vote this morning. He also hoped that the next Majlis would actively deal with judicial issues and approve laws in the interest of the impoverished and oppressed people. Emphasising on the overall participation of the people in the elections, Ayatollah Sane'i said that it was the best way to struggle with the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Earlier this morning, Ayatollah Najafi Marashi and Ayatollah Golpayegani cast their votes here.

### Khamene'i Views Election Issues

*LD171618 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] In the early hours of this morning President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i attended Polling Station No 1,851 in Amiriyyeh Street, Panbechi Mosque, and cast his vote for the second round of the second Majlis elections amid a tumultuous welcome from the martyr-nurturing people of our country. Our correspondent held an interview with President Khamene'i which you now hear:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr President, since the early hours of this morning the people have gone to the polling stations to cast their vote for their candidates in 94 cities of our country. In view of the problems that exist in the country, what issues are expected to be given priority by the second Majlis?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Fortunately, the conditions throughout the country are very good and satisfactory; people have a great deal of interest and motivation and regard the elections as a duty and attach a great deal of importance to it. In the second round of the elections it seems that the people are showing a great deal of interest and enthusiasm, and we hope that they will be able to send good people to the Majlis.

Of course, there are many issues before the Majlis and, God willing, it should see to all of them. The first Majlis did a great deal of work. It worked very hard, solved many of the problems, and untied many knots; but there are still many other knots. Foremost among these issues are those concerning the well-being and comfort of all the people, especially the down-trodden classes and those who have certain difficulties in their lives. These issues include housing, agricultural land, and just distribution of income. There are different issues and problems and some prepared bills which the Majlis should investigate. We hope that it will be successful. Of course, the essence of all these issues is an Islamic motivation which constitutes people's constant faith, enthusiasm, and motivation.

[Correspondent] In view of the need for harmony between the executive and the legislature, and in view of the fact that Your Excellency is the head of the executive, how did you find the harmony between the government and the first Majlis?

[Khamene'i] Thanks be to God, in the last session there was a great deal of harmony. The officials are very close to each other. They are very sincere. One of God's greatest bounties upon us was the fact that our dear brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani was Majlis speaker. He always led the Majlis in the best possible way, thanks be to God, guiding it and always coming to the assistance of the government and the executive organs. On the whole, in most cases the Majlis deputies assisted the government in the correct positions that they adopted. We have no complaints. These days there are certain issues which require time, and it takes time before they produce final results. It is possible that certain bills might have been left incomplete in the Majlis or in the government; but we do not regard this as anything to worry about. Thanks be to God, the situation was quite harmonious. [end recording]

### Montazeri Blames East, West for Drug Problems

*LD171235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 84*

[Excerpts] Islamic Revolution high court judges accompanied by Mr Bojnurdi, a member of the Supreme Judicial Council and supervisor of the Islamic Revolution's high courts, met with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday. After presenting a report about the activities of these courts and the positive results of those activities, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in a long speech thanked and praised the judges and employees of the high courts, saying:

The formation of Islamic Revolution high courts to pay greater attention and to further investigate the files of suspects was a very vital and necessary step, because Islam attaches great importance to and places a high value upon people's lives, blood, and property. Therefore, while Islam attaches a great deal of importance to judicial issues as a whole, when the issue involves people's lives or blood or the confiscation of their property it is necessary to pay greater attention.

In connection with the work of the Islamic Revolution's high courts on narcotics, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: Although in this respect too one should act decisively, and a serious and decisive stance should be taken toward those who are at the head of the networks engaged in the production and importation of these life-destroying substances, nevertheless, one should pay attention to the fact that the drug issue, which has now assumed such dangerous proportions, is a political issue, and its real roots lie outside the country and are being controlled by Eastern or Western mercenaries. They wish to corrupt our youths and to drag many families toward misery, corruption and destruction, hoping that in this way they can achieve their imperialist goals. Therefore, in order to fight against this evil there should be a general mobilization involving different organizations, even the Friday and congregational imams. In the first instance, the borders of the country should be properly controlled by means of equipped and strong patrols. Then one should identify and cut off the contacts between individuals with international organizations and networks outside the country.

He emphasized: The problem will not be solved merely by executing a number of smugglers. Relevant organizations should pay greater attention to various apsects of this issue and its political and economic aspects. Arrangements should be made so that the importation of these substances is thwarted and the profiteering in the country is absolutely prohibited.

## MFA Official Discusses African, Mideast Tour

*LD141333 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 14 May 84*

[Text] Tehran, May 14 IRNA — The Foreign Affairs Ministry deputy for economic and political affairs, Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, left Tehran this morning for a tour of several African and Arab states. The Foreign Ministry official is due to visit Zimbabwe, Tanzania, South Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates, and will deliver messages of President 'Ali Khamene'i to heads of these countries.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure, the deputy said that the message of President Khamene'i to the heads of the countries that he is scheduled to visit indicated keenness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand its relations with these countries in political, economic, and cultural fields.

He stressed that the visits aimed at deepening relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with these states. In these visits, he added, the possibilities of trade exchange would be discussed.

## Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,729

*LD171744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 84*

[Communique No 1,729 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the operational theaters of Piranshahr, Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, Marivan, and Panjwin yesterday, the Islamic forces shelled enemy positions, motorized columns, and supply routes with artillery and mortar launchers, disrupting the operations of Saddam's forces along the defensive lines, and foiling the activities of their reconnaissance teams. Visible losses sustained by the enemy included one mortar launcher, two observation posts, and several trenches, with 15 dead and wounded.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, heavy arms exchanges continued, and as a result of shelling by our combatants, a number of enemy trenches and observation posts were destroyed and a number of the mercenaries were killed.

On the southern front, our patrols engaged numbers of Iraqi troops, as a result of which eight Saddamists were killed and the remainder fled.

In the operational sector of Abadan and Khorramshahr, combatant units stationed on the banks of the Arvand Rud fired on an enemy position on the west bank of the river, destroying a heavy machine gun, a mortar launcher, and 20 of the Saddamists' trenches and foxholes.

Bombardment of residential districts of Abadan yesterday by heavy long-range weapons resulted in damage to a number of houses and shops.

## Officers Urge Khomeyni To End Iraq War

*PM171302 Paris LE MATIN in French 12-13 May 84 p 9*

[Safa Haeri article: "Iranian Officers' Warning to Khomeyni"]

[Text] "Dozens" of senior Iranian officers have been retired and replaced by young noncommissioned officers entirely devoted to the regime and Imam Khomeyni and by Revolution Guard commanders.

What is the reason for this decision? It is the "discontent" of the officers who, in a letter to Khomeyni, drew his attention to "the inability of the Iranian Armed Forces to continue the war in the present conditions."

These officers, around 100 of them, specified that, faced with a "very heavily armed and equipped" Iraqi Army, "our forces can no longer do anything other than to continue to send in waves of people from time to time, to advance only a few kilometers at the cost of very heavy loss of life." They proposed that the imam should halt the war "while there is still time, while Iraq is still prepared to pay compensation, and hence to accept its defeat, our army having proved its valiance and its invulnerability and that is the strongest in the region."

The officers in question then warned Imam Khomeyni against the "very probable" possibility "of a reversal of the situation," in which the Iranians would be forced, by coordinated Iraqi attacks, to pull back to the internatonal borders and thus "be forced to sign an imposed peace without honor."

Exactly 2 years ago, following the capture of Khorramshahr and the first penetration of Iranian troops into Iraqi territory, around 50 officers sent a letter to Khomeyni proposing ending the war, signing a cease-fire on the basis of the 1975 Algiers agreements, and forcing Iraq to pay war reparations — which the Iranians now estimate at $200 billion.

That letter was intercepted by the supporters of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the parliamentary speaker and the regime's strongman. With the "revolution guide's" consent Rafsanjani ordered the arrest of all the signatories, who were accused of "complicity with the enemy and high treason against Islam." All the officers were subsequently released, the continuation of the war making their presence and experience necessary.

According to sources in Tehran, it is virtually the same officers who have signed the new letter, in which they observe that even if the regime succeeds in procuring new and sophisticated weapons, which in present circumstances, they say, "is virtually impossible," it will take "at least 1 year for the Iranian forces to make Saddam Husayn's regime capitulate."

The Iranian military have clearly warned the mullahs of the "very grave" consequences of another unproductive offensive like the Val-Fajr V and VI offensives, which ended in defeat and very heavy loss of life.

According to sources in the Iranian capital, the new commanders of the regular Army units are very young officers, the first recruits of the Islamic Republic's Academy of War and Pasdaran (Revolution Guards) "trained on the fronts and in Allah's school."

**Iraqi Arms Shipment Unloaded at Aqaba Port**
*GF180545 Tehran International Service in Arabic*
*2000 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] One of the officials responsible for the Jordanian port of Aqaba made a statement today saying that a huge shipment of arms and ammunition destined for the regime ruling in Iraq has been unloaded at that port. He also said that ships for the Soviet Union and other countries which sell arms to Iraq use the port of Aqaba to route military equipment to Iraq and that explosive materials are unloaded at this port under the supervision of Jordanian and Iraqi experts.

It should be noted that the Jordanian port of Aqaba is under the security control of the Jerusalem-usurping entity and that no ship can unload its cargo of arms and ammunition at Aqaba without obtaining a license from Zionist officials beforehand.

**Iraqi Students Demonstrate Against Draft in Irbil**
*GF180535 Tehran International Service in Arabic*
*1730 GMT 17 May 84*

[Text] The Muslim students at the Salah ad-Din University in the Iraqi town of Irbil held a demonstration to protest the Saddam regime's demand that the university students join the so-called forces of the popular army.

Saddam's security forces broke up the demonstration, resulting in the martyrdom of one of the university students and the wounding of others. Following this, the university students in As-Sulaymaniyah and (Khuwaytarah al-Mawsil) held strikes and demonstrations, during which they denounced the crimes committed by the ruling regime in Iraq against the Muslim people of this country.

On the other hand, the reports from Iraq said that a group of Muslim Iraqi soldiers have recently fled the fronts of the war which is being imposed by the Iraqi regime on the Islamic Republic of Iran and have joined the ranks of the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries. Those soldiers revealed that the Saddam regime has executed a number of Muslim revolutionaries in Abu Ghurayb jail and while delivering their bodies to their families, claimed that they had been killed on the war fronts.

**Iraqi Regime Demands Blood Donations in Basra**
*GF131808 Tehran International Service in Turkish*
*1830 GMT 10 May 84*

[Text] The Zionist regime in power in Iraq is forcibly acquiring blood from workers in Basra to treat its wounded troops.

Reports from Iraq say that the increasing number of wounded Iraqi people at the battlefronts has caused a drop in the Saddam regime's blood reserves. And due to the reluctance of the Muslim Iraqi people to cooperate with the regime, the Iraqi authorities have demanded that trade unions in Basra force the workers to donate their blood to hospitals in that city.

**Revolution Guards, Populace Clash in Mashhad**
*GF141811 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian*
*1500 GMT 14 May 84*

[Summary] According to our correspondent, some days ago in Mashhad, where the war refugees have been (?accommodated), clashes took place between the people and the guards.

The incident stemmed from the mode of distribution of fish. The guards bore down on the people and arrested one man, beating him so violently that he died. Following dissemination of this news, the people attacked the Guards and injured one of the commanders in retaliation. The guards then attacked the residences of the war refugees and arrested adults and young persons. Some of the people fled the city.

A team from the War Refugees Foundation visited Mashhad to assess the situation, but instead of attending to the people's grievances, the team began an inquiry into the killing of the man.

This infuriated the people, who once again shouted slogans against the guards, which they repeated during the services for that person.

### Guards Increase Security Measures in Esfahan

*GF121921 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 12 May 84*

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, the guards have increased their security measures in Esfahan following the cancellation of the contrived elections held in the city by the Council of Guardians. Groups of Khomeyni's guards have been stationed throughout the city of Esfahan. On Saveh and Darvazeh Tehran Avenues, the guards have been opposing any action against the regime. A large number of guards are stationed in these two avenues.

A number of clergymen who were supporters of the Khomeyni regime before the elections have now turned against this regime after the failure of the election charade in the city. Among them are Hojjat ol-Eslam Salavati and Seyyed Kazem Bojnurdi, who have joined the ranks of the opposition.

### Soviets Said Using Chemical Weapons in Afghanistan

*GF151659 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 14 May 84*

[Unattributed commentary: "The Islamic Struggle in Afghanistan Continues"]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Muslims in Afghanistan are continuing their glorious struggle to set up an Islamic state and rid the Islamic land of that country of the occupationist Soviet forces and the troops of the Babrak Karmal regime, which is the puppet of Soviet imperialism. The mujahidin have displayed examples of heroism in the clashes between the revolutionary Muslims and the occupationist forces which moved to seize control of the Panjsher valley during the past few days. In fact, the mujahidin have converted the resistance in Panjsher valley into a symbol of their Islamic struggle.

Taking into consideration the strategic importance of the Panjsher valley, Soviet imperialism has attacked it seven times to date, but it has been unsuccessful in all. In its latest attack it faces defeat as well. Revolutionary Muslims maintained their vigilance in preparing for the attack the anti-Islamic forces would launch against Panjsher valley. They dug in the important positions on the mountains and prevented the advance of the enemy and inflicted heavy losses on them through the guerrilla tactics they have employed. Incoming reports say that the hospitals in Kabul are currently overflowing with troops wounded in the region.

Reports from reliable sources say that the Soviet Union, which has lost hope for advancing in Panjsher valley, has begun using chemical arms, including mustard gas, against the revolutionary Muslims. It has also been reported that apart from the fact that the seventh attack on Panjsher valley by Soviet imperialism is currently facing defeat, the enemy forces have lost hope before the revolutionary Muslims. On several occasions the members of the enemy have abandoned their arms and surrendered to the Muslims.

One report says that the revolutionary Muslims have attacked a military center in (Sharkh) region in Panjsher valley and destroyed more than 40 tanks and armored vehicles, including a number of helicopters. They have also killed dozens of the occupationist troops. In yet another attack on the enemy, the revolutionary Muslims destroyed a number of armored vehicles and two helicopters. They also killed 30 Soviet troops. The same reports say that a large number of Soviet troops have been captured as prisoners of war.

The revolutionary Muslims, who are determined not to let the occupationist Russians seize the control of Panjsher valley, which both sides regard as important, are continuing their resistance through various tactics and through transferring fresh forces to the region. It has also reported that a large number of mujahidin from Bamian, (?Akhbari), Balkh, and (?Gowragi) regions have been transferred to the Panjsher valley region to join in the fighting.

The Islamic struggle being waged by the Muslim people against Soviet imperialism and its agents in various other areas of the Islamic land of Afghanistan is continuing as well. A number of explosions recently took place in various hotels in Kabul and in the capital's stadium. A number of Soviet troops were killed in the explosion which took place in Kabul's Plaza Hotel, which is close to the Presidential Palace. One report says that seven of the Soviet troops brought into Afghanistan from regions in the Soviet Union inhabited by Muslims travelled to the mujahidin headquarters in Lanji Kheyl in Kabul Province and surrendered. An officer in Baghlan Province also surrendered to revolutionary Muslims together with his arms.

In short, the Islamic struggle in all the corners of Afghanistan is continuing against the occupationist Soviet Union and the Babrak Karmal regime's forces. And Soviet imperialism is about to receive a new blow from the mujahidin in the Panjsher valley.

### Industries Minister Assesses Economic Development

*GF150544 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 10 May 84*

[From the "Social and Economic Development in Iran" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: Among the numerous fruits of the Islamic Revolution in Iran is the recognition of the right to the Muslim Iranian people to pursue the policy required in the economic and cultural fields. As such, the Islamic Revolution has prepared the ground for an advance toward a genuine and many-sided independence. It is common knowledge that our government, in addition to planning short- and medium-term projects for developing agriculture, has also taken positive steps in the direction of realizing long-term projects. This has provided momentum for achieving the targets of the Islamic Revolution.

Parallel to the work achieved in the agricultural domain, the government has also attached importance to the development of

the main industrial field which constitutes the basis of our country's economy. Major steps have been taken for realizing plans and projects in this area. Let us now hear the statement Behzad Nabavi, the minister of heavy industries, made while being interviewed by an IRNA correspondent:

Compared with 1982, the production of industrial factories within the framework of the Ministry of Heavy Industries during the 1983 fiscal year increased by 58 percent, and, compared with 1978, production increased by 28 percent.

Until 3 years after the realization of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the government had to extend financial aid to installations in order to avoid deficiencies and stoppages in them. However, all factories within the framework of the Ministry of Heavy Industries maintained their operations at a satisfactory level without receiving any aid from the government during 1983. According to preliminary estimates, the installations will provide a total of Rls10 billion net profit to the government by the end of the current year. I must also point out that the prices established for the products of these factories have been maintained until now. Meanwhile, a number of reductions varying between 10-25 percent have been put into effect.

One of the important steps taken in the field of heavy industry is the commissioning of the smelting installation No 5 in Esfahan's Mobarakeh steel complex. This installation has been set up in Esfahan and has had an important role in the development of our couuntry. Apart from this, the cylindrical pipe factory which is being set up near the Esfahan iron and steel plant will be commissioned during the current year. Its capacity will be 700,000 tons per year. The capacity of the ironworks of this factory will be doubled.

## Briefs

**Farmers Tax Exemption Bill** — Tehran, May 14, IRNA — The government today sent the bill on tax exemption of farming income to the Ministry of Agriculture for putting into effect. The bill was approved by the Majlis on April 18 and then the Guardians Council. According to the bill, incomes of farmers and livestock breeders whose activities are in conformity with the agricultural policies of the government will be exempted from taxation for a period of ten years beginning March 1983. The bill stresses that the exemption will be applicable only if the agricultural activities were in line with government's agricultural policies. [Text][Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 14 May 84 GF]

**Loans to Kordestan Farmers** — Sanandaj, May 14, IRNA — Rural cooperative organisation of Kordestan Province extended loans worth 2.45 [word indistinct] rials ($28.2 m) to 44,370 members of the provinces 122 cooperatives during the year 1362 (ended March 1984). A total of 140,852 farmers are members of the cooperatives which have a legal reserve of over 252.2 million rials ($2.9 m). During the year 1362, the cooperatives purchased 2.6 million kgs of chemical fertilizers, 1.7 million kgs of seed, 108,500 kgs of insecticides, and agricultural equipment worth 9.7 million rials ($111,500) and distributed it among the members. The cooperatives also purchased 68 million kgs of wheat from members during the same year. [Text][Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 14 May 84 GF]

**Contraband Carpets Seized** — Chabahar Port, Sistan va Baluchestan Province, May 14, IRNA — Gendarmerie officials in Chabahar have discovered 353 Persian carpets worth over one billion rials ($11.5 m) from two international smugglers Sunday. The regional Gendarmerie commander told IRNA here that a large number of the carpets were 40 metres long and were being prepared to be smuggled out of the country. On Friday another 33 precious silk carpets worth about 400 million rials ($4.6 m) were also discovered from smugglers in the coastal areas of the port here. [Text][Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 14 May 84 GF]